

Tuesday, October 21 2003

Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
445 12th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20554

VIA FACSIMILE

Dear Commissioner Copps,

As a consumer of broadcast television, electronics, and computer products, I urge the Federal Communications Commission to vote against the adoption of a "broadcast flag." I am gravely concerned that a broadcast flag regulation would restrict the way I enjoy television.

The digital television transition relies on convincing consumers of the benefits of switching to and buying digital television equipment. That transition will be far more palatable to me as a consumer if switching doesn't mean discarding my existing home network, buying new high-resolution displays, and finding room for yet another device in my living room. Please do not allow the MPAA and its allies to hinder the transition by making us buy special-purpose DTV devices that are more expensive and less valuable.

In addition, I am very concerned about the fair-use implications of the broadcast flag. With today's technology, I can be more than a passive recipient of content -- I can modify, create, and participate. I can record TV to watch later; clip a small piece of TV and splice it into a home movie; send an email clip of my child's football game to a distant relative; or record a TV program onto a DVD and play it at my friend's apartment. The broadcast flag seems designed to remove this control and flexibility that I enjoy.

If the move to digital television does not make the public's viewing experience more enjoyable, flexible, and exciting, what compelling reason do I have as a consumer to buy new digital equipment? A prettier TV picture is hardly enough reason for me to dispense with all my current consumer electronics and computer equipment. As a citizen and consumer of broadcast television, I urge you to promote the digital transition by opposing the broadcast flag.

Sincerely,

Martijn Pieters  
3 Warfield Place  
Fredericksburg, VA 22401

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Sincerely,

Paul Kircher  
520 Bristol Pike #44  
Bensalem, PA 19020

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Sincerely,

Brandon Vaughan  
4771 Farmer Denton Rd  
Denton, NC 27239

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John Spinelli  
185 Grove Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15229

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Sincerely,

Clayton Townsend  
19100 Mateny Hill Rd.  
Germantown, MD 20874

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Sincerely,

Pauline Li  
1600 Villa Street #295  
Mountain View, CA 94041

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Sincerely,

Christina Burt  
12198 NW 30th Street  
Pompano Beach, FL 33065

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Sincerely,

Miles Baker  
703 Washington  
Alton, IL 62002



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Sincerely,

Roger Lutz  
11504 SW Woodlee Heights Court  
Portland, OR 97219

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Sincerely,

Brad Slack  
9031 Crystal Lake DRIVE  
Indianapolis, IN 46240

October 22, 2003

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Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Michael Copps,

I am writing to voice my opposition to any FCC-mandated adoption of "broadcast flag" technology for digital television. As a consumer and citizen, I feel strongly that such a policy would be bad for innovation, consumer rights, and the ultimate adoption of DTV.

A robust, competitive market for consumer electronics must be rooted in manufacturers' ability to innovate for their customers. Allowing movie studios to veto features of DTV-reception equipment will enable the studios to tell technologists what new products they can create. This will result in products that don't necessarily reflect what consumers like me actually want, and it could result in me being charged more money for inferior functionality.

If the FCC issues a broadcast flag mandate, I would actually be less likely to make an investment in DTV-capable receivers and other equipment. I will not pay more for devices that limit my rights at the behest of Hollywood. Please do not mandate broadcast flag technology for digital television. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Ladd Hebert  
9219 Prairie Trails Drive  
Spring, TX 77379  
USA

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Todd Mason  
115 Elm St  
North Haven, CT 06473  
USA